

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 for being obvious. Claims 1-27 remain in the application.

The rejection of the claims for obviousness was based in all cases at least on Araki and Gruodis and in some cases further on one or more of Lin, Reise, Lesmeister, and Fusco. Araki describes a system similar to that admitted as prior art in applicants' prior art FIG. 1. This is a system that simply uses a device model for testing and captures only the results of the test itself. There is little if anything usable from the simulation testing for the subsequent integrated circuit testing. Gruodis describes, among other things, a technique for saving memory and speeding up testing of an integrated circuit. During this process opcodes are generated that are helpful in managing memory usage and thus improving the testing. This issue of managing memory usage that Gruodis is addressing for testing an integrated circuit is not relevant in running a test on a device model. The process of Gruodis is simply not relevant to the testing of a device model.

The independent claims have all been amended to provide additional clarity in this regard. Claim 1, for example, makes it clear that the use of the device model results in a captured simulation that is subsequently used in testing the integrated circuit. The opcode described by Gruodis, on the other hand, only arises from testing the integrated circuit itself and has nothing to do with being generated by applying a stimulus to a device model and then subsequently used in the testing of the integrated circuit. Similarly, Araki neither describes nor suggests any use of a captured simulation as claimed in a subsequent testing of the integrated circuit. Independent claims 12, 18, and 22 have been similarly amended. The other references cited also do not contemplate or suggest this type of operation. Accordingly, applicants believe these claims are patentably distinct from the cited prior art. Further the rejected dependent claims should be examined differently in light of the clarifications to the independent claims.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.


Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact the below-signed if there are any issues regarding this communication or otherwise concerning the current application.

Respectfully submitted,

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